

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11

OMB-01 /159 R

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, EFIN, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDENSHARING

REF: USNATO 5395

1. WE BELIEVE THAT PO AS OUTLINED REFTEL WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH DEGREE OF PROGRESS WE HOPE CAN BE REGISTERED BY DECEMBER MINISTERIAL. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PO WOULD INVITE LOWERING OF SIGHTS ON PART OF MANY NATIONS AND ENCOURAGE INACTION THROUGH YEAR'S END.

2. MESSAGE REPORTING NOVEMBER 8 NAC CONSIDERATION OF BURDENSHARING NOT YET RECEIVED HERE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND POSITIVE SPIRIT WAS SHOWN BY SOME ALLIES, INCLUDING SENTIMENT FOR REDUCED US COST-SHARE IN NATO BUDGETS, AND EXPRESSIONS BY NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY OF INTENT TO INCREASE PROCUREMENT.

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3. REGARDING REDUCED US COST-SHARE FOR BUDGETS, WE BELIEVE PERMREPS SHOULD RETAIN COGNIZANCE OF MATTER AND BE URGED TO DEVELOP FIRM SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. DELEGATION NOW TO VARIOUS LOWER LEVEL COMMITTEES CONCERNED WOULD DELAY QUESTION CONSIDERABLY AND IN OUR OPINION IS NOT NECESSARY.

4. AT DECEMBER MINISTERIAL WE ALSO CONSIDER IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN A GENERAL STATEMENT OF ALLIED INTENTION TO ASSIST US WITH ITS BOP AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. WE NEED SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS THAT TANGIBLE MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO DEMONSTRATE TO CONGRESS THAT REAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND THAT WE ARE GETTING MORE FROM ALLIES THAN CONTINUED EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

5. DRAWING ON ABOVE POINTS, YOU SHOULD URGE SYG TO DEFER ISSUING PO UNTIL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DETERMINE MOST PROMISING COURSE OF ACTION BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER MINISTERIALS. FYI: THIS DETERMINATION MUST AWAIT CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF NAC DISCUSSION ON BURDEN-SHARING, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S DISCUSSIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH NPG, AND UNDER SECRETARY CASEY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG ON OFFSET. END FYI.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE222699
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LTC RTHOMPSON:GP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731141/aaaabeck.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 5395
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURDENSHARING
TAGS: MCAP, EFIN, US, NATO, NAC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005